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National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Detroit Section

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSE  
HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE

May 3, 2005

Re: HB 4446

My name is Fern Ettinger, and I am testifying this morning to speak on behalf of National Council of Jewish Women. We are a volunteer organization inspired by Jewish values that works through programs of research, education, advocacy and community service to improve the quality of life for women, children and families and strives to ensure individual rights and freedoms for all.

I am writing in opposition to HB 4446.

This legislation is redundant and politically driven and does not have the best interest of women in mind. Current law already mandates that a health care provider show a woman the image of a fetus prior to an abortion. It is not medically necessary that the woman observe an ultrasound, particularly for medical abortions done in the first seven weeks of gestation nor is it medically necessary that she receive a printed image of the fetus. An ultrasound is a medical procedure, not a political tool.

Requiring ultrasounds would be burdensome for low-income women and especially rural women, increasing their costs and unnecessarily limiting access to abortion.

If the Michigan House is really concerned about women, you should increase funding for family planning services, make contraceptives available for all women and provide our young people with comprehensive abstinence-plus education. These are the things that truly prevent unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion.

Thank you.

Fern Ettinger

National Council of Jewish Women

State Public Affairs, Chair

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